



Frequently Asked Questions – Kindergarten

In Indiana, a school corporation is required to provide a kindergarten program for eligible students (IC § 20-26-5-1, see also IC §20-26-1-1). Although providing a half-day kindergarten program satisfies this requirement, a school corporation may provide a full-day kindergarten program as an alternative or in addition to a half-day kindergarten program.

At what age may a child enroll in kindergarten?

A child may enter kindergarten if the child is at least five years of age on or before August 1 of the school year. The local school corporation must have an appeals procedure for those seeking early admittance into kindergarten.

Does a child have to be tested in order to enroll in kindergarten?

No. If the child meets the minimum age requirement, the child may enroll in kindergarten.

Once a child is enrolled in kindergarten, is the child subject to the same attendance requirements as any other student?

Yes. If a child enrolls in kindergarten, the child is subject to the same “compulsory attendance” requirement as any other student in school. Compulsory attendance means that the child is required to attend school during the days and hours determined by the school corporation. If a child enrolls in a full-day kindergarten program, attendance for the full day is required; the parent may not opt to have the child attend for only a half-day of a full-day kindergarten program.

Is a child required to have a social security number to enroll in kindergarten?

No. It is unlawful for a school to deny enrollment to a child or deny any educational benefit because the parent refuses to disclose the child’s social security number. A school may ask a parent to voluntarily provide the child’s social security number. However, in doing so, the Privacy Act of 1974 requires the school also tell the parent that they are not required to provide the number. The school must also tell the parent how the school will use the child’s social security number. The school must inform the parent that the child will not be denied enrollment or any educational benefit or privilege because the parent refuses to provide a social security number.



Is documentation of residency within the school corporation required to enroll in kindergarten?

No. Parents may enroll their child in the school corporation within which boundaries the parents reside. Schools may reasonably ask for documentation that establishes the parent's residence. Because parents may not have this information if they are homeless or living with a relative, schools must enroll children presented for enrollment. A school official then may verify legal settlement.

If a child is old enough to attend kindergarten, can a parent hold the child out of school for a year?

A child is not required to attend school until the school year in which the child becomes seven years old.

Because attending kindergarten is not mandatory, can I hold my child out until the child reaches the age of seven and enroll directly into first grade?

If a child enrolls in school but has not attended kindergarten, the superintendent determines whether the child will enroll in kindergarten or first grade. The superintendent must make the determination based on the model assessment adopted by the local school board.

Is the school corporation required to provide both half-day and a full-day kindergarten program?

No. A school corporation is required to provide a kindergarten program. A school corporation may satisfy this requirement by providing a half-day kindergarten program, full-day kindergarten program, or both a half-day and a full-day kindergarten program.

May a school corporation offer a full-day kindergarten program in only some of its schools?

Yes. Because a school corporation is not required to provide a full-day kindergarten program, it may choose to offer such program in some, but not all, of its schools. The school corporation satisfies the state requirements as long as it makes tuition free kindergarten program available to all eligible students.



When a child transfers from an out-of-state or a private kindergarten program and does not meet the Indiana age-eligibility requirement, should the school accept that child into the kindergarten program?

If the child does not meet the minimum age requirement for enrollment in kindergarten in the school corporation, the school may not enroll the child in kindergarten. However, the parent may appeal the age requirement to the superintendent in accordance with the procedures adopted by the school corporation.

Can a school corporation take an instructional day to register new kindergarten students for the upcoming school year?

Schools are required to conduct 180 student instructional days a year. Schools can take a day without instruction to register new kindergarten students, but that day does not count toward the 180-day requirement.

Does the Department of Education mandate a maximum class size or child to teacher ratio for kindergarten?

No, however other regulatory bodies may have class size or ratio requirements.

What is the minimum square footage per child per kindergarten classroom?

The State Department of Health requires a school to provide at least 30 square feet of classroom area per child. The ceiling heights may not be less than 7.5 feet. Kindergarten classrooms must be a part of the first story, above grade, unless the school has an adequate sprinkler system.